

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 419-2500

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: John Carr (916) 419-2525

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ABC, CHP and Community Leaders Join National Effort to Prevent Underage Drinking By Scheduling Town Hall Meetings

Seven Meetings scheduled in Orange County

(Orange County) –ABC Director Jerry Jolly today said the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control will join community leaders, students, parents, caregivers, educators and law enforcement leaders at Town Hall meetings throughout California to address the problem of Underage Drinking. The statewide effort includes seven Town Hall meetings in Orange County.

“There is a national effort to make our communities safer by coming together at Town Hall meetings”, said Jolly. “680 young people under the age of 21 were killed in California in alcohol-related crashes during 2004. We need to do everything we can to stop these tragedies from occurring and these meetings should help.”

The Town Hall meetings have been organized nationally by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Orange County meetings have been engineered by a broad coalition of community partners. These meetings are designed to increase community awareness on the issues of underage drinking, identify how underage drinking affects the community and to generate potential solutions. “As a society, we’ve got to do a far better job persuading our citizens and our young people that alcohol use by youth is an unhealthy norm we don’t support. We need to get parents talking to their children early and often about the dangers of alcohol,” said Vicki Walker of the Orange County Department of Education. Walker is the coordinator of the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program and Tobacco Use Prevention Education Program.

Orange County leaders have scheduled Seven Town Hall Meetings:

Monday, March 27, 2006 12:30p-2p
Kidworks Donahue Center
1902 Chestnut Avenue, Santa Ana

Monday, March 27, 2006 12:30p-2p
Stanton Community Center
11822 Santa Paula Street, Stanton

Tuesday, March 28, 2006 7p-8:30p
St. Joseph Justice Center
480 South Batavia, Orange

Wednesday, March 29, 2006-7p-8:30p
Aliso Niguel High School
28000 Wolverine Way, Aliso Viejo

Thursday, April 6, 2006 7p-8:30p
Wilshire Auditorium
315 Wilshire Avenue, Fullerton

Thursday, April 13, 2006
Irvine High School
4321 Walnut Avenue, Irvine

Monday, May 1, 2006 6:30p-8:30p
Savanna High School, 301 North Gilbert Street, Anaheim